

The Clayton News

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND THE UPBUILDING OF THE COMMUNITY.

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NO. 1.

FORMER GOVERNOR MILLS SUCCEUMS TO PNEUMONIA

Death of Judge Who Sentenced
Black Jack Reveals Hitherto Un-
written Escapades of Latter.

Ex-Governor William J. Mills died at his home in Las Vegas of pneumonia Friday evening. Mr. Mills, besides being governor was formerly justice of the New Mexico supreme court, having been appointed by William McKinley in 1898. He was re-appointed twice by Theodore Roosevelt. Mr. Mills was born in Mississippi. He lived in New Mexico for many years and was one of the leading republicans of the state. He was a Mason and an Elk.

Thirteen at Dinner

The death of William J. Mills is the second among thirteen men who gathered as guests of Federal Judge William H. Pope at Santa Fe a few weeks ago. It was a reunion of the judges and officers of the territorial supreme court over which both governor Mills and Judge Pope had presided.

It was at this dinner that the late Judge Edward A. Mann uttered these prophetic words: "It is unlikely that all of us will ever be together again." The flashlight pictures taken at the banquet are, perhaps, the last photographs of both Judge Mann and Judge Mills.

Upon learning of the death of Ex-Governor Mills, A. W. Thompson, one of the few really, truly old-timers now living in Clayton, recalled a bit of history relating to the time in Clayton when stirring events were the rule rather than the exception.

It was Ex-Governor Mills who passed sentence on Black Jack, (T. E. Ketchum) the notorious outlaw who for ten or twelve years terrorized northeastern New Mexico and who was the only person ever hanged in Union county. Black Jack and his carefree depredation were permanently suspended at the end of a rope the morning of April 25th, 1902.

Mr. Thompson has a souvenir of this occasion that he treasures very highly. He terms it the "last will and testament of Black Jack." The night before the death of the outlaw Mr. Thompson called at the jail to wish the condemned man good luck on his journey. As a memento of the visit Black Jack scrawled with his left hand (his right hand had been shot off) on a card the following:

april the 25 1902
T. E. Ketchum

Wanted Priest to Fiddle and Dance

How Black Jack kept up his bravado to the last is related in a little incident at the jail the night before his execution when a priest called to lend the bad man assistance in making peace with his God. Black Jack rudely informed the priest that he "didn't want any prayin'" and that if the priest was unable to entertain him by "fiddling or dancing" his services were not wanted.

How Black Jack Delayed the Train

One of Black Jack's escapades in Clayton that has never been published was planned by the outlaw on a moment's notice to accommodate his employer, Capt. Day, for whom he was punching cattle. Capt. Day, was and perhaps always has been in ignorance of the "accommodation." Capt. Day and his outfit drove into Clayton with a bunch of Pecos cattle in 1892, shortly after the railroad had been built. At that time there were but two or three store buildings in Clayton, among them Tom Gray's saloon and the mercantile firm which the late Geo. Bushnell was associated.

Capt. Day received a check of some \$10,000 for his cattle while here which he deposited with Mr. Bushnell asking for \$1,000 spending money on it. One thousand dollars

in currency was not to be had in those days in Clayton hence a bank in Trinidad was wired to send the amount by express on the night train. The expressman informed Capt. Day that his chance of getting the money package depended upon how long the train stopped. The Captain casually mentioned this to Black Jack who said nothing but decided that it was proper that the train should wait and give his boss a chance to get the money.

A typical cowpuncher poker game was in progress at Tom Gray's when he train whistled in. Upon its arrival a figure slipped out at the rear of the thirteenth parlor and under cover of darkness made way toward the station. The engineer climbed down from his cab and began oiling up. On the side of the engine opposite the station he was struck over the head with the butt of a six-shooter, nearly knocking him out. He regained his senses enough to call to the fireman to hand down a gun. The engineer could dimly discern a figure scuffling for the saloon, raised his gun and took two random shots at it. The bullets whistled harmlessly away and the poker game was again full handed.

By the time the engineer had explained to Constable Lock Wamsley his reason for shooting and had his wound mended the train had been delayed fifteen minutes and Capt. Day was able to receive the money. Black Jack afterward confessed that he created and executed this delicate piece of work. Primitive though it was it got the desired result.

PRETTY CALENDARS ARE GIFTS OF CLAYTON FIRMS

Gilburn's Art Reproduction of Paul
Jones and his Ship a Prize
Winner.

Clayton business firms put out many beautiful calendars for 1916. Among the best are F. P. Kilbura's and that of the Bank of Commerce. The former's calendar is a full color reproduction of Percy Moran's beautiful oil painting "Paul Jones Bidding Farewell to his Victorious Ship." The subject is one that appeals to everyone. It depicts the victorious American standing on the deck of the captured British vessel with his hat raised in farewell salute to his own ship which is burning and sinking.

"On Guard," Pope's famous painting showing a lioness ready for emergency should anything disturb the peace of her cubs, is a large color reproduction which the Bank of Commerce has put out to the business houses. Their calendar for the homes is a tastily mounted hand-colored photograph.

Otto-Johnson Mercantile company gave us an oil reproduction of "Monarchs of Sunset Land" showing the aged trees of the west coast. This calendar is an excellent piece of printing.

The First National Bank put out their ever practical single leaf calendar. Their sister bank of Kenton set a high mark in art by giving a large reproduction that bears the ear-marks of the famous Thos. Moran's brush.

"Peg O' My Heart" was the title of the Robt. W. Isaacs picture-calendar. This firm put out several smaller ones.

Many other smaller ones, but just as pretty, were given by John Spring, Geo. H. Wade, Rose's Pharmacy and others.

Guy Petty Goes to the Rancho.

Guy Petty, who for the past year has served patrons of the Eklund Cafe will desert the grind and join Mrs. Petty on their ranch six miles southwest of Clayton. Petty says he is quitting the mess for good. He has handled the lunch counter efficiently and by the call of the rancho the Eklund loses a good man.

The Ill-fated Pilgrim Buck

The dollar with the card attached, bearing the legend: "What a Dollar Will Buy in Clayton" which C. O. Dunn, sent on its voyage struck a reef about the fourth day out. The dollar perished but the card was washed ashore. A delegation of business men recovered the card. Frank Barnhart supplied the dollar and the pilgrim was again sent forth in quest of the desired information.

C. O. Dunn was the first to part with the dollar.

"It is mine" So said Mr. Dunn, but he went forthwith to The News office, paid a year's subscription and went on his way rejoicing for our boss was exceedingly glad and admitted that he needed the change.

"It is mine" So quoth "High." "And I would like to keep it but I am in dire need of a pair of socks and a necktie." And he descended into the village and he bargained for the attire and for the foxy stripes thereon he exchanged the shining ducat at Simon Herzstein's store.

"It is mine" Said Mr. Herzstein but like all thoughtful and considerate folks, he did his Christmas shopping early and spent the dollar at Robt. Isaacs for a child's silver set.

"It is mine" Said "Uncle Bob" but he suddenly remembered that the correspondence department in his store was out of stamps and he spent the dollar at the post office. Postmistress Mrs. Pace exchanged even with the post office for the wandering dollar and exclaimed "It is mine"

But Mrs. Pace noticed that her Overland needed some oil, hence did her share to assist the coin on its way by buying a gallon of oil at the Clayton Garage & Auto Co.

"It is mine" Chuckled Chas. Monroe, manager, but he did not keep it long. He cheerfully kicked in and bought a dollar's worth of coal of G. G. Granville. Geo. Squeezed the buck and declared "It is mine"

That was the beginning of the end. Granville unconsciously steered the wandering buck straight onto the reef. He bought four pounds of a certain food, in a certain place of business. He fished out the wandering dollar, and parted with it as cheerfully as he had received it. The proprietor of this place took the dollar, ripped the card from it, buried it in the cash register and with profound confidence announced:

"It is MINE!"

Such was the fate of the wandering buck. Although a sharp lookout has been kept, to our knowledge it has never come to the surface.

Never mind, fellows of the Association. One little wreck cannot keep you from telling and convincing folks that Clayton is a swell place in which to live. The buck is well started.

Mission Auditorium Leased

Willard and Earle, movie men of Canton, Oklahoma, closed a deal with Morris Herzstein Tuesday for the auditorium of the new Mission building. The formal opening date has been set for February 1st, but may be changed to an earlier date if work continues to progress as rapidly as of late.

The decorative material has arrived and the work has nearly reached the point for its use. The east room of the building will be ready January 1st. Weber and Sons will occupy this room.

The rathskeller will be occupied by the Pullman Cafe under the management of Jack Weichman. Mr. Weichman has had years of experience in the art of dishing up things that tickle the palates of the hungry and promises to devote his best efforts to Clayton patrons. The Pullman will open about February 15.

Special Bond Election

Special election has been called for February 1st to vote \$35,000 bonds for the erection of a new school building and a building site in Clayton.

From what information we have a new building and equipment is badly needed. The grade schools overflowed this year and one or two grades had to be quartered in another building. We also understand that if this improvement is made the Clayton high school will be placed permanently on the accredited list which means that a Clayton high school graduate is eligible to any state school without special examination.

Home Orchestra Will Play

Bristol's Orchestra, composed of Mrs. Eugene Bristol, piano, Eugene Bristol, violin, Roger Crawford, cornet and Milo Hatcliff, drums, will furnish the music for the Masonic banquet and ball Wednesday evening January 5th, in the Mission rathskeller. This orchestra also played for the Woodmen Christmas night and last night.

Clayton is fortunate in having this organization as it ranks dangerously near the top with any in the country and like many other of our good things is at home and ready for service.

Golden Eagle Guards Cashier's Window

The huge golden eagle killed by Chas. Claggett and Morgan Harvey has returned from Denver mounted on a papier mache crag and has been placed above the cashier's window in the First National Bank. The eagle is posed in a defensive attitude and appears to be ready to scream—but it can't. The wing measure of the bird before mounting was eight feet.

Rev. Dum Leaves for Las Vegas

Rev. and Mrs. Ray Spotts Dum left Tuesday night for Las Vegas where Rev. Dum will conduct the destinies of the M. E. church. The News congratulates Las Vegas on securing this young man, not only in the capacity of a minister but as that of a live, active and public spirited citizen. A delegation of business men attended the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Dum.

Pioneer Folks Coming for Visit

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Fawcett, now of Trinidad, are expected to arrive in Clayton next week to visit with friends and relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett conducted one of the first, if not the very first, grocery store here.

Business Men to Eat Each Fortnight

The Business Men's Association has arranged with Jack Weichman, who will conduct the Pullman Cafe, to have business men's lunch on Saturday of each fortnight.

All that the name

LICENSE NOT NECESSARY TO HUNT JACK RABBITS

Attorney General Says that Coyote
Trapping and Rabbit Driving is
Not Unlawful.

The rabbit drive proposed by H. J. Hilgers met with general favor until the question of hunting license was brought up. Ranchers all objected to procuring license simply to partake in a rabbit drive. A story in the Santa Fe New Mexican in which the opinion of Attorney General Frank W. Clancy is set forth in no uncertain terms should calm the fears of all relating to liability of arrest for hunting rabbits and trapping coyotes. The opinion was rendered in reply to a letter from a man in Dona Ana county. It reads as follows:

"I have today received your letter in which you say that an old Indian from Tortugas, situated below the state college, has come to you and said that the Indians were not permitted to hunt rabbits unless they should take out hunting license. There is no lawful authority which anyone can be required to pay for a hunting license in order to hunt and kill rabbits, and you can say to the Indians that there is no need for them to buy license in order to kill rabbits in their accustomed manner which you describe in your letter as having been their method from time immemorial by which the whole village took out, the men and boys armed with clubs, and forming a large circle they close in, and as the circle sens in diameter, the rabbits tempt to escape and are killed. The must, however, be careful not to kill in the course of this drive any of the game which is protected by law, such as ducks, quail, grouse, turkeys and doves, as that would subject them to punishment under the statute. Rabbits are not in any way protected by law from being killed."

"The impression that any such license could be required for person to kill rabbits has grown out of an injudicious statutory provision enacted by the last legislature will be found in Section 7 of Chapter 106 of the laws of 1915. This section prohibits all persons from shooting, hunting or killing any animal in any manner any animal without first having a license and then says 'any person is liable for the same or forest, or with traps or snares for hunting, or possession a proper license herein provided for.' This section is a part of the game laws and does not have, in their attempts to charge their duties, assumed the mere carrying of a gun was sufficient to justify a complaint against the person carrying it, and his consequent arrest, and while the wording of the statute may bear out such a construction, yet I think it is unjustifiable to arrest a man merely for carrying a gun without other and additional evidence of his intention to violate the law."

A letter on the question of hunting licenses for the hunting and trapping of coyotes and wild cats has been sent to a San Juan inquirer by Assistant District Attorney A. M. Edwards of this city. This letter reads:

"I have your letter in which you ask whether it is necessary for a person engaged in the hunting and trapping of coyotes and wild cats to procure a hunting license before engaging in such occupation."

"The law does not require a hunting license for such trapping and hunting. The only difficulty may arise is under Section 7 of Chapter 106 of the law of 1915, which provides that the presence of any person in any open field, prairie

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